## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 171505Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6167 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, FR, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PANAM OTC PROGRAM

REF.: PARIS 32528

- 1. PANAM REP INFORMS US HOME OFFICE IS CONCERNED OVER PROSPECTS FOR OTC PROGRAM (REFTEL) AND INSTRUCTED THAT SGAC BE ASKED FOR "YES OR NO" ANSWER WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS. QUITE APART FROM WHETHER FRENCH (OR ANY OTHER) CIVAIR REGULATORY BODY WOULD TAKE KINDLY TO SUCH CAVALIER DEMAND, WE INDICATED THAT IF SGAC WERE PRESSED FOR IMMEDIATE ANSWER IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE NEGATIVE.
- 2. PANAM UNDERSTANDS THAT BOSTON TOUR OPERATOR WITH WHOM PANAM HAS MOUNTED OTC PROGRAM HAS SINCE BEEN APPROACHED BY AIR FRANCE OFFERING TO TAKE OVER THE PROGRAM. PRICE WAS OBSTACLE, HOWEVER, LEADING PANAM REP TO SUSPECT THAT AIR FRANCE WAS ASKING MUCH HIGHER CHARTER COST IN LINE WITH SGAC MINIMUM PRICE LEVEL. PANAM IS TRYING TO LEARN FOR US EXACT CHARTER PRICE WHICH AIR FRANCE PROPOSED TO THE TOUR OPERATOR.
- 3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS FAIRLY OBVIOUS THAT SGAC MUST HAVE LEAKED PANAM FILING INFO TO AIR FRANCE WHICH IS NOW TRY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING TO STEAL THE OTC BUSINESS. THIS IS COMING TO BE A

FAMILIAR PATTERN AFTER AIR FRANCE EFFORTS, WITH SGAC CONNIVANCE, TO GET PART OF TRAFFIC FROM WORLD AIRWAYS' THREE POINT ITC PROGRAMS THROUGH PARIS AND TO TAKE BERLIN -PARIS CHARTER BUSINESS AWAY FROM PANAM.

4. DEPT TOO WILL HAVE NOTED THAT ESPEROU REMARKS REPORTED PENULTIMATE SENTENCE PARA 5 REFTEL NEATLY LEAVE DOOR OPEN FOR PROMPT SGAC APPROVAL OF ANY OTC'S AIR FRANCE MIGHT WANT TO CARRY. HAS AIR FRANCE FILED TO OPERATE ANY OTC'S? WOULD CAB HAVE ANY MEANS PREVENTING OPERATION SUCH FLIGHTS BY AIR FRANCE IN ABSENCE GOF FORMAL AGREEMENT ACCEPT OTC RULE? ON THE OTHER HAND, WHILE WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WANT AIR FRANCE TO STEAL BOSTON PROGRAM FROM PANAM, IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING IN CONTEXT UPCOMING RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL CHARTER TALKS WITH GOF IF AIR FRANCE ITSELF WAS IN FACT PLANNING OPERATE SOME OF THE FIRST OTC FLIGHTS, SINCE THIS MIGHT UNDERCUT GOF ARGUMENT THAT AIR FRANCE NEEDS PART CHARTER AUTHORITY IN ORDER COMPETE WITH OTC'S.

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## Message Attributes

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